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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 10952 241227Z

42
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 DHA-02 NSC-05 L-03 /038 W
---------- 021300
R 241155Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3094

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 10952

FOL TEL RCVD FROM RIO DE JANEIRO 23 DEC 1975 SENT ACTION BRASILIA
INFO SAO PAULO BEING RPTD FOR YOUR ACTION
QUOTE
RIO DE JANEIRO 4218

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT SHUM MILI BR
SUBJ: RIO DE JANEIRO VIEWS ON HERZOG INVESTIGATION

REF: SAO PAULO 2722

1. IN GENERAL RIO DE JANEIRO PRESS SKEPTICAL ABOUT HERZOG INVESTIGATION REPORT RELEASED TO THE PRESS DEC 19 IN SAO PAULO. PRINCIPAL SKEPTICISM, OF COURSE, SURROUNDS CENTRAL ISSUE OF SUICIDE OR ACCIDENTAL DEATH. CONSENSUS OF PRESS SOURCES IS THAT HERZOG DIED WHILE BEING TORTURED. ONE VERSION WHICH HAS SOME CURRENCY WITHIN BRAZILIAN BAR ASSOCIATION (OAB) AND CHURCH CIRCLES IS THAT HERZOG'S HEART STOPPED AS A RESULT OF ELECTRIC SHOCK BUT THAT HIS TORTURERS THOUGHT HE HAD SIMPLY PASSED OUT. BY THE TIME THEY ATTEMPTED TO REVIVE HIM, HERZOG WAS CLINICALLY DEAD BECAUSE OF OXYGEN STARVATION OF THE BRAIN. TORTURERS THEN STAGED HANGING. THESE SOURCES BELIEVE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE TO ADMINISTER ELECTRIC SHOCK WITHOUT LEAVING BURN MARKS. THEY ARE FURTHER PERSUADED IN THEIR VERSION OF DEATH BY PHOTOS IN THEIR POSSESSION OF ANOTHER MAN WHO ALLEGEDLY HANGED HIMSELF EARLIER THIS YEAR AT DOI HEADQUARTERS IN SAO PAULO IN A SIMILAR CELL AND IN A MANNER IDENTICAL TO HERZOG.

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2. ONE JOURNALISTIC SOURCE WHO SPECIALIZES IN THESE CASES

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COMMENTED "THE REPORT SIMPLY PROVES THE SECOND ARMY HAS ESPRIT DE
CORPS. GENERAL CERQUEIRA LIMA WAS UNABLE TO CARRY OUT AS FULL
AN INVESTIGATION AS HE WOULD HAVE LIKED BECAUSE OF PRESSURE
WITHIN THE SECOND ARMY".
DEXTER
UNQUOTE
CRIMMINS

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NNN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 24 DEC 1975
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Decaption Note:
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